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Vera VOVK (Ukrainian emigre writer, citizen and resident of Brazil, travelled as official Brazilain delegate to the PEN club congress in Yugoslavia last summer and then on to the Soviet Union where she met with Ukrainian writers) informed Uncle Louey she had letter dated 6 May (postmarked 8 May) from Ivan SVITLYCHNIY. The latter writes that he is in Lvov, that he needs a rest which he hopes to take at a seaside resort, and that he then hopes to start working again. He makes no mention at all about having been arrested and in prison. On 6 April VOVK had a letter from SVITLYCHNIY's sister in which she stated Ivan was "unable to write" at the time. VOVK interpreted this comment as confirmation of SVITLYCHNIY's arrest.

It appears Western news reports about the arrest of SVITLYCHNIY and DZYUBA did have some effect, and that since the Soviets had no concrete evidence to produce at a trial against the two writers, they were forced to release SVITLYCHNIY (DZYUBA released earlier because of ill health). It is believed, however, that SVITLYCHNIY is under close guard and that he was instructed to write the letter to VOVK. Since no official announcement was made about either the arrests or SVITLYCHNIY's release the CASSOWARIES will not make any change in their initial plans to continue protests against the arrests of Ukrainian writers. Neither do we plan to rescind the cable guidance and the follow up cable sent to field stations, although the guidance has to date produced no response.

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